

REMARKS

Claims 10-36 were examined in the Office Action under reply. Claims 10-14, 19-23 and 28-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The claims were objected to based on the use of the term "epitope." The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to recite "epitopes." Claims 15-18, 24-27 and 33-36 were objected to as depending on rejected claims but were not otherwise rejected.


All pending claims now either directly or ultimately depend from the non-rejected claims and are therefore believed to be allowable. In particular, claim 15 has been rewritten in independent format to incorporate the recitations of claim 10 from which it previously depended. Claims 11-13 have been amended to depend from claim 15 rather than cancelled claim 10. Since all of the elected claims are now allowable, applicants request that the pending non-elected method claims that depend from the allowable claims be entered pursuant to MPEP §821.04.

Respectfully submitted,

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